New Drug Policy and Drug Prices in the Context of GATT Agreement

4066. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state;

(a) what are the reasons for delay in the finalisation of the new Drug Policy and when it is expected to be finalised and announced;

(b) whether there is risk of drug prices shooting up in the context of GATT Agreement;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to obviate the chances of the drug prices shooting up;

(d) whether India's pharmaceutical exports will be adversely affected by the switch over from process patent to product patent that the GATT deal requires; and

(e) if so, what are the facts and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The progress of the review of the Drug Policy, 1986 is at an advance stage. After finalising the modifications needed in the existing provisions relating to various aspects of the pharmaceutical industry including pricing, an announcement of the modified Drug Policy would be made.

(b) to (e) There will be no impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the prices of the existing drugs in the market whether patented or non-patented. The impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the drugs, including exports of drugs, which will be patented after the coming in force of the TRIPS Agreement will depend on a number of factors including the nature of the availability of the therapeutic equivalent substitute non-patented drugs in the market, licencing and marketing strategies adopted by the patent holders, including the option of the local manufacturing and the general scenario that might be prevailing in the international market.

Price decontrolled bulk drugs produced by M/s. Hoechst, Glaxo, German Remedies & other companies

4067. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state;

(a) what are the prices of decontrolled bulk drugs produced by-Hoechst, Glaxo, German Remedies, Fairdeal Corporation, Cadila and Wockhardt;

(b) since when they are producing these drugs, what are their declared prices under Form IA and what was their production of each of these during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what are the names of formulations produced by these companies based on these drugs, what was the price of each before Drug Prices Control Order, 1987 and what is the price on 31st July, 1994 and what is the MAPE taken on each as per breakup submitted to the Ministry; and

(d) what are their names and what are the basis on which these drugs have been price decontrolled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) There are a large number of bulk drugs and formulations outside price control produced by these companies. The information asked for is voluminous and the time and effort involved in compilation and analysis of the same may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

(d) The inclusion/exclusion of drugs under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 has been done on the basis of the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee.